

Remarks

Claims 1-16 and 18-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 are indicated as being allowed. Claim 13 has been amended. Claims 8-12, 17-18, 21-24, 27-29, and 31 have been cancelled. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 8-11, 13-16, 19, 21-23, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,602,586 issued to Kakimoto et al.

Claim 13 has been amended to include all of the claim limitations of dependant claim 18, which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Because all of the claim limitations of claim 18 and its intervening claims have been added to claim 13, Kakimoto et al. does not teach all of the claim limitations of claim 13. Removal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11, 21-23, and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 14-16, 19, and 26 depend from independent claim 13. As previously discussed, Kakimoto et al. does not teach all the claim limitations of claim 13. Because Kakimoto et al. does not teach all the claim limitations of claim 13, Kakimoto et al. does not teach all the claim limitations of claims 14-16, 19, and 26. Removal of the rejection of claims 14-16, 19, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 20, 24-25, and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,602,586 issued to Kakimoto et al.

Claims 12, 24, 29, and 31 have been cancelled. Claims 20 and 30 depend from independent claim 13. As previously discussed, claim 13 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Because claim 13 is considered to be in condition for allowance, claims 20 and 30 are also considered to be in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejection of claims 20 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 25 depends from independent claim 1. The Examiner has indicated that claim 1 is allowable. Because claim 1 is considered to be in condition for allowance, claim 25 is also considered to be in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

3. Claim 28, which was previously withdrawn, has been cancelled.

In view of the arguments and amendments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

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